



The Link

110 Years
Serving Jesus

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December 2020

Worship, Sun: 10:00 am
Bible Study, Sun: 11:00 am
Bible Study, Tues: 6:30 pm



'Twas the First Christmas Eve

'Twas the night before Christmas
and all through the town
The inns were all filled,
not a room to be found.

The people were sleeping
all snug in the beds
Awaiting the census that
would count all their heads.

Mary and Joseph
had only been able
To find for their room
a lowly stable.

In this humble setting
with animals surrounding
Mary would give birth
with Joseph attending.

Outside of the city and
around a small fire
Shepherds watched their flocks,
about to retire.

The angel of God told them
"Be not afraid.
I bring you good news
of where your Savior is laid.

Tonight in the city of David
is born,
A Savior for all who is
Christ, the Lord.

A babe in a manger is whom
you should seek
All wrapped up in cloths
and quietly asleep."

Then the host of angels
joined in to say,
"Glory to God
in a heavenly way.

When the angels departed
the shepherds did say,
"Let us find in the city where
the baby does lay."

Away to the stable the
shepherds did hurry
Leaving their sheep
without any worry.

They found the baby
as the angel had said
Surrounded by animals
with a manger for a bed.

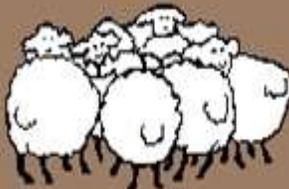
The light that shone round
the little baby's head
Soon led them to know
they had nothing to dread.

From that night forward
wherever they went
The shepherds related
the evening's events.

They told about Jesus
who that evening was born
And that he is the Savior,
the Christ, the Lord.

-- Dr. Alan Cobb

Then what to their wondering eyes
should appear
But an angel of God
and a host of his peers.



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Why We Need Christmas

by Jill Cobb, www.MyEverydayGod.com

The day after Thanksgiving, our family got out our Christmas decorations, put up the tree, hung our stockings, and even set up lights in front of our house. It's officially the Christmas season, and it couldn't have come at a better time!

We were certainly not the first to dig out our Christmas tubs and boxes. This year, people were stringing lights and trimmings their trees earlier than ever. 2020 has been a lump of coal, to say it politely, and across the board people have been long anticipating the holiday season.

This yearning is not just for children excited to open presents on Christmas morning. It's us, as adults. We need Christmas this year.

Why is there more attention, focus and enthusiasm for Christmas than usual? Why does it seem we desperately need Christmas to come, the sooner the better?

Collectively, for almost all of us, this year has, well, been a year. It's a year we'd like to escape, to sucker punch and kick to the curb. It's been hard, and for some devastating. People have lost opportunities, lost jobs, lost loved ones, lost their sanity in quarantine, lost safety, lost elections, lost peace, and lost joy. We're lost. With no end in sight, and no light at the end of the tunnel, we feel lost.

Christmas is about remembering what was and believing in what could be again.

One of my favorite Christmas traditions is putting up our Christmas tree. My husband puts the tree together, and then I string the lights and garland. Next, we decorate the tree with ribbons carefully saved from our holiday wedding. Finally, the kids hang all of our ornaments, spanning decades of memories. It's certainly not a professional job, and not one you'd ever see in a store display, but

it's ours.

Our Christmas tree holds so many years of special moments and stories, smiles and laughter. It reminds us of the joy and blessings God has given us.

For instance, my favorite ornament on our tree is a construction paper stocking, stitched with yarn by small fingers, and half of the sequins are now missing. On the back is my son's name, proudly written by a little boy after working on this special project together. It's trash to most, but one I will always keep and prominently display.



There are so many ornaments lovingly made

in school classrooms by my children (and their thoughtful teachers), that capture moments and precious faces I don't want to forget.



Both my husband and I have ornaments commemorating our first Christmases from our parents, and others from our childhood. And we have special ornaments that we've picked out together for our tree. Each year, when we have the opportunity, my husband and I pick out a special Nativity Christmas ornament.

Our Christmas tree reminds us what's most important. It's the One who has shaped our Christmas memories and

who holds all our future Christmases.



People long for Christmas, because deep down, even if they don't understand it, they ache for a Savior. They want someone to save the day – to change what the world has become.

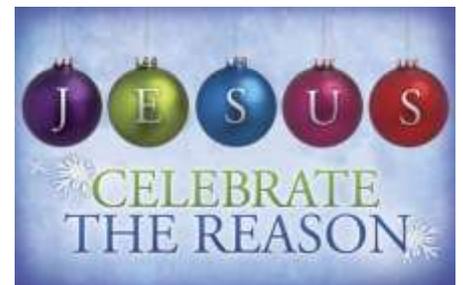
We need Christmas. We need Christ. Jesus is peace. Jesus is joy. Jesus is the reason for our faith, and the source of our hope.

Christmas not only reminds us of what's most important, it gives us a glimpse of what could be and should be when we seek the Savior of the World. Only Jesus can restore what we've lost.

He was the One who left the perfection of Heaven to step into our mess. He lived a life without corruption, selfishness and sin. And, because we couldn't do it on our own, He gave His life to save ours. He gave us hope and life, and that resurrection is available to us, even today.

So, bring on the Christmas carols, mugs of hot chocolate, nativity scenes and candles flickering in the windows. Light up those obnoxious Christmas displays and cover couches with Christmas pillows and blankets. Watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and snuggle together with only the glow of the Christmas tree lights in the room. Christmas is here – and we have reason to celebrate!

The Light of the World has come! Look for Him this Christmas.



Spotlight on Missions



Dear Friends,

“In everything by prayer and thanksgiving make your requests known to God and the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

All that we looked upon as solid is being shaken. From politics, sports, entertainment, to the environment and even the solid foundations of some churches are moving away from what has been stable.

The word of God is full of scriptures to encourage us in times of turmoil. Keep your focus on Jesus. God sent Him to take our fears and give us a quietness of mind.

Speak out for truth when you can. Don't be surprised when it is not believed. People who don't believe that there is a God or don't want to accept that He is in charge and in control of His creation will not believe the truth when it is presented to them.

Roanoke church has just finished filling shoeboxes with gifts for children as part of our support of the Operation Christmas Child ministry of Samaritan's Purse, Franklin Graham's organization. As they take the shoeboxes and the Gospel about Jesus to unreached people and their children, our prayers and love go with them.

We continue to pray for and support missionaries where we cannot go. Sending them money for resources helps keep us active in sharing about Jesus. God is in control. Let Him speak peace to you.

With love,
Alice Claire Butler

Pantry “Pleas”

And

Thank You

Thank you for your response to our pleas for November. We hope you will help us with some of these items for December.

1. Cranberry Sauce
2. Canned Ravioli (or Meats)
3. Toaster Pastries
4. Paper Towels, Napkins, or Kleenex



JOIN US

Meeting: Dec 13th

Carry-in lunch: Noon

Mission Study: 1 p.m.

Library News



December Cupcakes

December Birthdays

Dec 5

Ruth Ann J.



Ruth Ann

December is the month we focus on International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Your gifts support our missionaries by providing for special gifts to meet their needs and especially their “wish list” for their ministry. What a wonderful opportunity we have to participate in missions through our giving and praying.

Our Winter Reading club begins on Jan 3rd so start looking for books you’d like to read. Here are some Christmas themed books you might like to read as you wait for the club to begin.

The Christmas Candle

by Max Lucado

The Miracle of Christmas

by Stormie Omartian

The Christmas Lamp

by Lori Copeland

Colors of Christmas

by Olivia Newport

The Messiah

by Marjorie Holmes

The Christmas Promise

The Christmas Hope

The Christmas Blessing

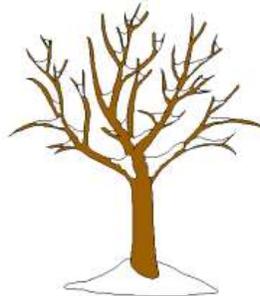
by Donna VanLiere

Remembering Christmas

by Dan Walsh

Christmas Every Morning

by Lisa Tawn Bergren



Our Christmas Tree in the sanctuary does not have lights.



Its decorations will be warmth items you bring to share with people in need.



Alan Cobb



Bake "Stained-Glass" Cookies



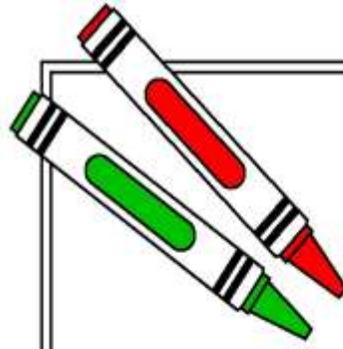
1. Mix your favorite cutout cookie recipe.
2. Chill overnight.
3. On waxed paper, roll dough into thin ropes, about 6" long.



4. Shape ropes into holiday symbols – stars, bells, etc.
5. Crush hard candies to make 2 cups.
6. Place shapes on well-greased cookie sheets.
7. Fill the openings with hard candies.
8. Use a toothpick to poke a hole in the top of each if you want to hang them.
9. Bake for 8 minutes, or until candy melts.
10. Cool completely before removing from cookie sheet.



11. Tie a loop of thread through hole if desired.



Just for KIDS

The Christmas Story

Each line below contains the letters to form a word that is part of the Christmas story. But each group of letters has 1 that is extra! Unscramble the words and write the extra letter on the lines at the bottom. What did we all receive at Christmas?

- | | | | |
|---|------------|-------|-------|
| ① | TGLBEHHEME | _____ | _____ |
| ② | NEAGLO | _____ | _____ |
| ③ | NRMEDAG | _____ | _____ |
| ④ | ODEKSNY | _____ | _____ |
| ⑤ | AMGYR | _____ | _____ |
| ⑥ | OHESJIP | _____ | _____ |
| ⑦ | EFJSUS | _____ | _____ |
| ⑧ | ITEENMSW | _____ | _____ |
| ⑨ | SPHHDSREEO | _____ | _____ |
| ⑩ | EMCFAL | _____ | _____ |
| ⑪ | TLSRA | _____ | _____ |
| ⑫ | CSSNUEO | _____ | _____ |
| ⑬ | HEVSPE | _____ | _____ |
| ⑭ | ENIN | _____ | _____ |

“ _____ , _____
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

 9 10 11 12 13 14
 ”

Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E), Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F)

God's gift of love

Pray For Our Missionaries

Please join us in praying for these individuals who have accepted Jesus' Lordship and are serving him in mission work.

Dec 1 – 8

Todd Bolton
 Birthday: Dec 5

Todd serves as a church planter and spiritual adviser in Ohio, the state ranked second in the US for opioid overdose deaths. He is the lead planter of Willoughby Bible Church, a church replant. He serves as a spiritual adviser for the residents of a Christ-centered men's recovery home on the church's property. Two years ago, he and the staff interviewed a man who wanted to live at the home. The man had no knowledge of God or the Bible, but the staff sensed his authentic desire to change his life. Since then, with weekly meetings to discuss life, recovery, and Jesus and working through two discipleship books, the man has become an authentic follower of Jesus and has helped other men in their recovery.

Pray for the recovery ministry called Friends of Recovery, and Willoughby Bible Church to have an impact on the community with the gospel of Christ.

Dec 9 – 15

Dalese Stockwell
 Birthday: Dec 12

Dalese married her college sweetheart, Mick, and they have

three boys: Christopher, Jonathan, and Daniel. Before their marriage, they both knew God was calling them to missions, but it would be several years before He moved them from Texas to Ukraine. For 15 years, they served God as church planters, ministering to people there alongside volunteer teams who came to help. Eventually, Mark became leader for Ukraine and eight other countries. In 2009, God took them to Prague, where Mark serves as trainer for the European Affinity. Their work now includes challenging nationals to take on the ministry of missions.

They ask for prayers that God would help them continue their ministry amid Covid-19.

Dec 16 - 22

Kerry Jackson
 Birthday: Dec 19

Kerry is an artist dedicating his talents to sharing the gospel and making disciples. He often travels to churches, evangelical events, Christian schools, and fundraising events to perform live worship art. Kerry leads Bible studies geared toward

cultural creatives called Creative Groups. "Many creatives think of themselves as spiritual people; however, we have found that many hold to a mixed view of false religions and cults," he says. "Quite often we find artists who are believers but have never been properly disciple. They are weak in their faith and have never made the connection that their faith and art are intertwined."

Pray for these individuals with whom Kerry ministers, that God will soften their hearts and help them express the truths of God in their art.

Dec 23 – 31

James "Jay" Shafto
 Birthday: Dec 26

Jay and his wife, Kathy, serve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He is team leader over the Congo Basin, a group of six countries in central Africa. As he and Kathy travel throughout the region, they equip and encourage African partners to learn and use Bible stories to evangelize, disciple, plant churches, and train church leaders. Together with other Christian agencies, they have impacted more than 40 Bible-less people groups. A project sharing Bible stories with 30,000 people resulted in 10,000 rededications, 1,100 baptisms, and 29 church plants.

Pray that the churches and people will see the urgency to teach children the Bible from a young age.



A Community Outreach of

Roanoke
Baptist
Church

3950 Wyoming
Kansas City, MO 64111

This year Roanoke Baptist Church members filled 106 shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child collection so children could receive a Christmas present (probably the first in their life) and learn about Jesus, whom Christmas celebrates. As a drop off location we received 44 shoeboxes from people in the community, so we took 150 shoeboxes to the area collection and they are on their way to children somewhere in the world to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ Child.

Thank you Samaritan's Purse for allowing us to help these children learn about and celebrate Jesus' birth.

